

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information service method for providing information via a network including a first information-processing apparatus and a second information-processing apparatus, said information service method comprising steps of:

inputting identification information of a product for purchase from a user of said network to said first information-processing apparatus;

inputting an order for a surrogate investigation of said product from said user to said first information-processing apparatus;

transmitting identification information of said user, identification information of said product and an instruction on said surrogate investigation from said first information-processing apparatus to said second information-processing apparatus;

storing said user identification information and said product identification information in said second information-processing apparatus;

calling said product identification information from said second information-processing apparatus to identify said product so as to conduct an investigation of said identified product by an appointed investigation agent; and

providing information obtained from said investigation to said user identified on the basis of said user identification information.

2. An information service method as defined in claim 1, which further includes a step of publishing information for designating a store and information about products dealt by said store on said network including said first and second information-processing apparatuses, wherein said user identifies a product for purchase among said published products.

3. An information service method as defined in claim 1 or 2, wherein said step of inputting an order for a surrogate investigation includes designating the level of said investigation or a deadline for the answer of said investigation.

4. An information service system for providing information via a network, said information service system comprising: a first information-processing apparatus and a second information-processing apparatus,

    said first information-processing apparatus including,

        means for acquiring identification information of a product for purchase and an order of a surrogate investigation of said product, from said user of said network, and

        means for transmitting identification information of said user, identification information of said product and an instruction of said surrogate investigation, to said second information-processing apparatus; and

    said second information-processing apparatus including,

        means for storing said user identification information and said product identification information with a certain association therebetween, and

        means for providing information about a result of an investigation by an appointed investigation agent to said user, said investigation being related to said product identified on the basis of said information stored in said storing means.

5. An information service system as defined in claim 4, wherein said acquiring means is operable to acquire the identification information of a product for purchase and the order in parallel with publishing information for designating a store and information about products dealt by said store on said network to provide them to said user

6. An information service system as defined in claim 4 or 5, wherein said acquiring means is operable to acquire designated information about the level of said investigation or a deadline for the answer of said investigation from said user.

7. A server apparatus to be connected to an information-processing terminal via a network, said information-processing terminal including:

    means for acquiring identification information of a product for purchase and an

order for a surrogate investigation of said product, from said user of said network; and means for transmitting identification information of said user, identification information of said product and an instruction of said surrogate investigation, to said server system, and wherein

    said server system comprises:

    means for storing said user identification information and said product identification information with a certain association therebetween; and

    means for providing information about a result of an investigation by an appointed investigation agent to said user, said investigation being related to said product identified on the basis of said information stored in said storing means.

8. A computer readable media storing a program to be read in and executed on a computer to implement the server apparatus as defined in claim 7.

9. An information-processing terminal to be connected to a server apparatus via a network, said server apparatus including:

    means for storing identification information of a user of said network and identification information of a product for purchase with a certain association therebetween; and

    means for providing information about a result of an investigation by an appointed investigation agent to said user, said investigation being related to said product identified on the basis of said information stored in said storing means, and wherein

    said information-processing terminal comprises:

    means for acquiring identification information of a product for purchase and an order for a surrogate investigation of said product, from said user of said network; and

    means for transmitting said identification information of said user, said identification information of said product and an instruction on said surrogate investigation, to said server apparatus.

10. A computer readable media storing a program to be read in and executed on a computer to implement the information-processing terminal as defined in claim 9.

11. An information service method comprising the steps of:

acquiring identification information of an applicant for purchase and of a product for purchase designated by said applicant;

storing said acquired identification information;

acquiring an order for a surrogate investigation of said product from said applicant;

and

providing information obtained from an investigation of said the product by an appointed investigation agent, to said applicant on a basis of the stored identification information.